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PMS

PN- 64. 2328

31 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Collection Guidance Staff, Human Resources Group,
Operations Branch

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ATTENTION : [redacted]

SUBJECT : Requirements on the Northern Sea Route

1. Require information on, or preferably a copy of the transit agreement or contract between Soviet authorities and foreign shippers. If a copy is not obtainable, of particular importance is information on specific wording used in these contracts for icebreaker-pilotage services furnished by the Soviets and the fees that are charged. Does the wording imply that ships are passing through territorial waters of the USSR and that, in effect, the Soviets are granting "permission" to transit the route?
2. The Soviets have announced that they are making available recently compiled materials to assist ships transiting the Northern Sea Route. Please obtain an original, if available, of all hydrographic charts, sailing directions and lists of navigational aids (buoys, lights, markers, etc.). Where originals are not available, photographic copies will suffice.
3. A description of the trip, with specific information about the Soviet icebreaker and convoy techniques, type and extent of control exerted on foreign ships, and a plot of the route followed, would be helpful. Any evidence of recent Soviet hydrological survey activity should be reported; particular attention should be given to the Laptev and East Siberian Seas.

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[redacted]
Chief, USSR Branch
Geography Division

Distribution:

Orig. and 1 - Addressee

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